

NORTH WITCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1946.



MR. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present to you my report for the year 1946 on the health conditions of your district during that period.

I also present the Sanitary Inspector's report.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CECIL THOMAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE GENERAL HEALTH of the district has been good. There were no epidemics during the winter months.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR THE HEALTH SERVICES.

(i) **Public Health Officers.**

Medical Officer of Health—CECIL THOMAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector—H. BURTON, A.R.S.I., C.S.I.B.

(ii) **Nursing in the Home.**

The entire district has the services of trained Nurses under the control of local Associations.

(iii) **Hospitals.**

Most cases are now treated at Doddington County Hospital. Cambridge and Peterborough Hospitals are also available.

(iv) **Ambulance Facilities.**

Doddington and Wimblington have the use of the Chatteris Ambulance. Benwick has the use of the Whittlesea Ambulance, and Manea has its own Ambulance.

(v) **Child Welfare.**

Clinics are held in Doddington and Manea.

Statistics.

Population 4,737.	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births	80	46	34
Still Births	Nil		
Deaths	80	44	36
Deaths of infants under 1 year	3	1	2

The Causes of Death were:

Heart Diseases	23
Intra Cranial Vascular Diseases	11
Other Circulatory Diseases	4
Cancer	13
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Syphilis	1
Influenza	1
Pneumonia	3
Bronchitis	1
Ulcer of Stomach	2
Nephritis	3
Premature Birth	1
Congenital Maldevelopment	2
Suicide	1
Road Accidents	1
Diabetes	2
All other Causes	9

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1946.

For the Rural District of North Witchford.

Disease.	Total Notified.	Deaths.
Whooping-Cough	14	0
Scarlet Fever	5	0
Erysipelas	4	0
Measles	4	0
Pneumonia	10	3
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	1

Notification of Tuberculosis.

No cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year 1946.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following are details of visits and inspections carried out during 1946.

Public Health Acts: Nuisances	106
Housing Act: Disrepair	37
Housing Act: Overcrowding	4
Cowsheds	39
Dairies	21
Bakehouses	8
Food Preparing Premises	19
Factories and Workshops	11
Refuse Accommodation	51
Sanitary Conveniences	62
Drain Inspections	36
Sewage Disposal (Beds and Dykes)	52
Water Supply	66
Moveable dwellings	8
Petroleum Inspections	3
Piggeries	12
Garages	23
Greenhouses	8
Rats and Mice (including N.S. 12 scheme)	352
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	5
Houses distinfected after Cancer	1
Houses in course of erection	81
Night soil collection	22
Street gullies	7
Vermin	8
Miscellaneous, interview and Meetings	247
Total	1289

Defects found and remedied.	Found.	Remedied.
Housing and Public Health—disrepair	107	98
Nuisances from:—Choked drains	12	12
Sanitary Conveniences	18	15
Offensive Accumulations	9	9
Moveable dwellings	2	2
Total	148	136

Milk and Dairies Order.

Contraventions found	18
Contraventions remedied	16

NORTH WITCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year 1946.

Housing.

In dealing with houses under the Housing Act, 1936, only informal action was necessary to provide remedial measures. Many defects were dealt with informally under the Public Health Act, 1936, and only in one instance was a Statutory Notice served under Section 93, this being duly complied with.

During the year the Council had ten houses under construction but none were completed.

Private enterprise completed four houses and had fifteen others under construction.

Building Licences.

During 1946 we saw the initiation of the WBA/Materials Priority Scheme and a continuation of the Defence Regulations governing the issue of Building Licences. The Council issued 180 such licences and in each case the premises were visited before the application forms were submitted to the Council.

Water Supply.

The following is a summary of the information asked for by the Ministry in Circular 13/47.

(1) The quantity and quality of the piped supply at Doddington and Wimblington is satisfactory. Manea still has trouble during the daytime with regard to pressure and most days water is only obtainable in the Station Road area, pressure increasing somewhat at night. Negotiations are on hand for effecting an improvement to the Manea supply, possibly by bringing a supply from the adjoining districts. The remaining village, Benwick, has no piped supply and is entirely dependent upon roof water plus a few private wells. During the year water was carted to Benwick on seven occasions, providing Benwick with 49,000 gallons.

(2) No samples of water were taken during the year from the piped supply, the Wisbech Water Company being known to take their own samples. One sample of water was taken from a pump in Doddington, the Analyst's report being unsatisfactory. In consequence the owner provided a piped supply.

(3) The local supply of water is not plumbo-solvent.

(4) No action was necessary in respect of any contamination.

(5) Proportion of dwelling houses supplied from public mains:—

Parish.	Direct to houses.	By standpipe.
Wimblington	83%	2½%
Doddington	52%	2 %
Manea and Welches Dam	87%	9 %
Benwick	—	—

Drainage and Sewage.

The sewage beds at Wimblington and Doddington have been cleaned out and a complete new set of filtering media provided, rendering the effluent fairly innocuous.

Several conversions from pail closets to water closets have been made and it is hoped that where a sufficient water supply is available more people will take advantage of this.

During the year 18 drain tests were made using the coloured water test and a total of 459 four inch pipes were tested.

Public Cleansing.

Night soil is still collected by contract and utilised on the land, few complaints arising from this method. Tins and other indestructible refuse are collected monthly, dumped in tips and properly covered over.

Milk and Dairies.

During the year two cowkeepers ceased production and one new cowkeeper was registered making a total of 30 cowkeepers in the area, most of them being wholesale traders. Two supplementary licences were issued for the sale of Pasteurised milk and one for the sale of Tuberculin Tested milk. There is one licence in force for the production of Accredited milk and none for either Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised.

18 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination, 8 being satisfactory and 8 unsatisfactory, the remaining two being tested too late by the laboratory. In the case of the unsatisfactory samples further visits were paid to the premises.

Meat and Food Inspection.

Meat supplied to this area is killed in the adjoining urban area where it is inspected at the time of slaughter, no routine inspection of food is therefore made in this area.

Moveable Dwellings.

Two licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, authorising the use of land for two moveable dwellings.

Infestation Order 1943.

The Council adopted the N.S. 12 scheme sponsored by the Ministry of Food for the inspection of all dwellings in the area and treatment where necessary. The scheme terminates on June 30th, 1947, and until that date it is impossible to give any figures as to the success or otherwise of the scheme. In conjunction with the N.S. 12 scheme all the Council's manholes in Wimblington and Doddington were baited, none of the baits being taken. It was therefore assumed that the sewers were free from rats.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14.

During the year one shop was registered under the above Act for the sale of ice cream.

H. BURTON,

Sanitary Inspector.

27th June, 1947.

